



# TRACKERS NEWS

Patron: Major General Peter R Phillips AO MC

December 2008

## A Message from the President

Our Association has been very active over the past six months.

In August we were a part of a Vietnam Veterans Day display at the Twin Towns RSL at Tweed Heads. We had three static displays of photographs covering all wars in which Australian dogs have served, with a particular emphasis on the Vietnam era dogs. Supporting the Association were display boards, puppies and personnel from the RAAF, Amberley. We also had two EDD dogs and handlers from 2 CER with their display board as well. To cap this off, we had located within the ADFTWDA display area a sapper team from the School of Military Engineering with a big presentation of "hands-on" mines, IEDs, counter-mine devices and electronic detection equipment. We were in a display area together with the 4 RAR/NZ Association (the organisers of the show), the RAN, MPs and the Mivac Trust (they help victims of mines to this very day, and help clear the millions of unexploded mines and bombs left behind in Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos). The ADFTWDA merchandise stand had a huge turnover and we made in excess of \$1500 in merchandise sales alone. Then there were donations from people such as Normie Rowe and Alan Griffin (the Minister for Veterans Affairs), the 4 RAR/NZ Association, the Mivac Trust and Legacy Twin Towns, among many others. Our volunteer helpers were a boon to the Association and we are all very grateful to them for giving up their time and personal expense in attending the ADFTWDA display. The innumerable visitors to the show included groups of school children who were very impressed by the RAAF puppies and the EDD dogs.

Then our crowning moment for the year! The ADFTWDA made history on 25 October 2008. We are the first organisation on the planet to issue medals to military working dogs and state government service dogs in recognition of their service both on overseas missions (they receive the War Dog Operational Medal with Clasps) and for service of more than five years (the Canine Service Medal). The medals are unofficial, but that did not detract one iota from the value placed on them by the receiving personnel and agencies. I have prepared an update on the medal situation later in this Newsletter. The medal presentation was one part of a number of ADFTWDA activities at Baldivis in Western Australia.

The principal purpose of the event was as a reunion in WA, and this was well attended albeit we could have had a few more members there. We dedicated a plaque to our fallen Trackers of the Vietnam War. We also asked for remembrance of the three EDD dogs lost in Afghanistan as our most recent ADF casualties. During the events we staged a biathlon where ADF and State Government Dog Agencies competed (some of them in the pouring rain) against each other. The WA committee organised the catering, accommodation, Army band, dance band, plaque, and a host of other things to make the reunion, plaque dedication, biathlon and medal presentation a success.

On the 26th February 2009 we will hold our Annual General Meeting. All management positions will be declared vacant. I ask that you make nominations for the honorary positions so that the Association can move on into the future with new blood and new ideas. In particular, we will need a Secretary and I appeal to you to nominate some candidates for that position. I also appeal for a nomination to fill the position of merchandise manager.

I wish you all every health, happiness and success for Christmas and the New Year.



**'Conservation through exciting education'**

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# Roll of Honour



*We honour those members who have gone before us and in particular we remember those Trackers who lost their lives in Vietnam.*

## **Peter Goss**

3 RAR Korea 2 RAR Korea 64th Field Park Squadron (British Army). Passed away 7th April, Bundaberg. Although an infantry officer, Peter was seconded to the Royal Engineers as the Commander of the dog troop in Korea.

**Bob Madden “Oldest Doggie”** Passed away 28th August.

**Bob Bye** Dog Handler “Tullus” in Australia. Served with 7 RAR 2nd tour.

*At the going down of the sun, and in the morning, we will remember them.*

*“Lest We Forget”*

## **Secretary’s Resignation**

I submitted my verbal resignation as Secretary of the ADFTWDA on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of November 2008. This resignation is to be effective as soon as a replacement is found for the position or from the next Annual General Meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> February 2009.

I will be available for a handover period of one month. I intend to have a break of at least twelve months and will be unavailable for any committee positions during that time.

I would like to thank those members who assisted me throughout the last seven years. My time as Inaugural Secretary has been most rewarding, and many strong bonds have been formed.

On a personal note, Julie and I would like to thank all those great friends we have made through “Aussie Trackers”. Even the 2RAR mob. They helped to make every event a special occasion.

As other volunteers would know it is great when you enjoy what you do but when the enjoyment isn’t there anymore for whatever reason then it is time to “hit the toe”. Bob Bettany

*Ever consider what our dogs must think of us? I mean, here we come from the grocery with the most amazing haul - chicken, pork, half a cow. They must think we’re the greatest hunters on earth!*

*If your dog is fat, you are not getting enough exercise.*

*Women and cats will do as they please, and men and dogs should relax and get used to the idea.*

## **WA Reunion**

Our Association owes a big vote of thanks to the West Australian Reunion Committee for their effort and enthusiasm, before and during this event. Rosemary Rose, Stacey Judd, Peter Dwyer, Ed Judd, Mal Murray, Bob Payne, Peter & Lorna Douglas all worked under very difficult circumstances, and there were times when the less dedicated would have given up.

Obviously they didn’t do that, and the result was a week of enjoyable activities, where many old friendships were renewed and new ones made.

The raffle winners were as follows:

Gordon Hay	Memorabilia
Bruce Clifton	Wine
Bob Bettany	Wine
Julie Bettany	Memorabilia
Lorna Douglas	\$50.00 cash
Peter Douglas	Wine
Ed Judd	Memorabilia
Ed Judd	Esy
Mal Murray	Memorabilia
Jack Hammer	Memorabilia
Mooka McDonald	Esperance Travellers Inn Voucher
Chris Featherstone	Memorabilia



The Seminar was well attended and enjoyed by everyone who participated, and the biathlon was lots of fun, even for Daniel Armstrong, who won the encouragement award. He was another one who did not give up.

As usual, Dave Towerton was the overall winner.

## **ADFTWDA Coming Events 2009**

Committee Meeting	9th January 2009 1000 hrs	17 Ryan Ave Balmoral
Farewell BBQ Lunch	26th February 2009 1200 hrs	NMW Enoggera
AGM	26th February 2009 1300 hrs	NMW Enoggera
Parade & Medals presentation	26th February 2009 1500 hrs	2CER Enoggera
Anzac Day March	25th April	Brisbane
Trackers Lunch	6th June	TBA
Vietnam Dogs medal presentation	18th August	Inf Centre Singleton NSW
ADFTWDA Reunion (proposed)	14th - 18th August	Inf Centre Singleton NSW
PASCAQ Biathlon 2009	31 Aug - 6 Sept	Oxley, Ipswich, Amberley
Trackers Xmas Party	28th November	TBA

### **Coming Events**

The time table above is a mixture of confirmed and proposed events.

The Committee meeting on Jan 9th is open to all members, and is being held at George Hulse's residence. We encourage anyone who is interested to be present.

The events on 26th February are a combination of formal and informal activities. It is an opportunity for Bob Bet-tany to say farewell as Secretary, followed by the AGM and the parade and medals presentation for current serving dogs.

The Trackers lunch on June 6th and the Xmas party are proposals only, and the new committee will decide when and where. Hopefully someone will be able to take up the idea and run with it, and the same applies to the reunion in Singleton. The Vietnam Dogs Medal Presentation is confirmed.

The PASCAQ Biathlon is also confirmed.

### **Animals in War Exhibition**

An exhibition on animals in war will open at the Australian War Memorial in February 2009. *A is for Animals* will explore a range of themes relating to animals during times of war. The exhibition will explore stories of the Light Horse; the donkeys, camels, horses and other creatures used to transport soldiers and equipment; the pigeons used to carry messages; the dogs who have located injured soldiers and tracked the enemy, and the many and varied animals adopted as mascots and pets. Additionally the exhibition will consider the unwelcome animals in war, such as insects, rats, wild elephants and jungle dwellers, which can make life difficult or even dangerous.

More details are available on the Memorial website, just paste this link into your browser <http://blog.awm.gov.au/awm/2008/03/12/animals-in-war/> and it should give you all the information you need.

Blog posts highlighting some interesting stories and collection items will appear throughout the period in the lead-up to the opening. The exhibition will last for around 3 months

### **Sniffer Dog**

A man had just settled into his seat next to the window on the plane when another man sits down in the aisle seat and puts his black Labrador in the middle seat next to the man.

The first man looks very quizzically at the dog and asks why the dog is allowed on the plane.

The second man explains that he is a Drug Enforcement Agency officer and the dog is a 'Sniffer dog'. 'His name is Smithy and he's the best there is. I'll show you once we get airborne, when I put him to work.'

The plane takes off, and once it has levelled out, the agent says: 'Watch this.' He tells Smithy to 'search'.

Smithy jumps down, walks along the aisle, and finally sits very purposefully next to a woman for several seconds.

Smithy then returns to his seat and puts one paw on the agent's arm. The agent says, 'Good boy', and he turns to the man and says: "That woman is in possession of marijuana, so I'm making a note of her seat number and she will be apprehended when we land." "That's pretty neat," was the reply. Once again, the agent sends Smithy to search the aisles. The Lab sniffs about, sits down beside a man for a few seconds, returns to his seat and this time, he places TWO paws on the agent's arm. The agent says, 'That man is carrying cocaine, so again, I'm making note of his seat number for the police.'

'I like it!' says his seat mate.

The agent then says 'search' again. Smithy walks up and down the aisles, sits down for a moment and then comes racing back to the agent, jumps into the middle seat and proceeds to shit all over the place.

The first man is really amazed out by this behaviour and can't figure out how or why a well-trained dog would behave like this, so he asks the agent 'What's going on?'

The agent nervously replies, 'He just found a bomb.'

### **Peter Cundall at the NMW.**

The ABC TV Gardening Australia programme with Peter Cundall at the National Memorial Walk Enoggera is being replayed on the ABC on Sat 3rd January 2009 at 6.30 pm and again on Sunday 4th at 1.00 pm. This is a major promotion of the NMW and is well worth a look.

## **Annual General Meeting**

The AGM is to be conducted at the National Memorial Walk at Gallipoli Lines Enoggera at 1300 hrs on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> February 2009.

**All positions within the association will be declared vacant at the AGM.**

We will be voting for the following positions comprising the management committee: President, Vice President, Secretary, Assistant Secretary, Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer and Merchandise Manager.

We are also seeking volunteers for the remaining positions as shown, including state and battalion representatives.

Please forward any items for discussion or nominations for any of the positions to be voted on, to the secretary **by 1200 hrs Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> February 2009.**

*Ask not what your association can do for you;  
ask what you can do for your association!*

*Nominate for a committee role now!*

The ADFTWDA needs to renew and the time to do that is now. Younger members of the post Vietnam era need to become more active in the day to day running of the association..

Leaving all the work to a handful of people leads to "Burn Out" so we have sub-divided the responsibilities of the Secretary into several other positions.

### **Who's in Heaven?**

A crusty old General died and found himself standing before Saint Peter at the pearly gates. Peter welcomed him warmly, Come right in, General! You've served your country well and you may enter Heaven!"

The General looked through the gates and stepped up to Saint Peter, "Just one thing, sonny. I hope there are no bloody Warrant Officers here. They are the rudest, most obnoxious variety of human being ever, and if there are any of them here, I'm not going in; I'd rather go to the other place."

"Don't worry, General," said Saint Peter. "No Warrant Officer has ever made it into Heaven. You'll find none of 'em here." With that the General enters into Heaven. Moments later, he comes upon an amazing sight. It is a swaggering figure in full ceremonial's, cap cocked lightly on his head, a mostly empty bottle of Bundy OP in one hand, and a beautiful woman on either arm.

Incensed, the General rushed back to Saint Peter and bails him up "Hey! You said there were no Warrant Officers here! So what the hell is THAT?!?" "Don't worry, General," says Saint Peter gently. "That's God. He just THINKS he's a Warrant Officer

## **ADFTWDA COMMITTEE**

**2009-2010**

### **Management Committee**

President, Vice President

Immediate Past President **Leo Van De Kamp**

Secretary, Assistant Secretary

Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer, Merchandise Manager

### **Working Committee Members:**

- Newsletter Editor, Assistant News Editor
- Newsletter Distributor E-mail & Postal
- Internet E-mail Information Distribution
- Media and Public Relations Officer
- Membership, Data Base Manager, Recruiting
- Events Co-ordinator
- Special Projects Co-ordinator
- SCVVAA Liaison Officer - **Ian Atkinson**
- RAR Assn Liaison Officer – **Kiwi Gibbons**
- Welfare & Pensions
- Historian - **Anne McConnell**
- Assistant Historian– **Ann McDonald**
- RACMP representative
- EDD representative
- RAAF representative
- ASDA Representative - **Andrew Clarke**
- PASCAQ – **Bevan Case**
- Association Chaplain
- Webmaster – **Julie Dominic**
- Webmaster Liaison Officer

### **STATE REPRESENTATIVES**

QLD, NSW, VIC, TAS, SA, WA, NT

### **BATTALION REPRESENTATIVES**

1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9 RAR

### **Dawn Service Toast to the Dogs**

A small group of Trackers attended the Vietnam Veterans' Day Dawn Service at Alexandra Headlands. Leo VanDeKamp gave a small presentation and a toast to all the dogs which was well received.

The Sunshine Coast Vietnam Veterans Association donated a cheque for \$300 for our fund raising efforts for the war dog medals, for which the ADFTWDA is most grateful

## **Update on the ADFTWDA Medals for Dogs Project**

### **Overview of the Launch**

Our medals for dogs project was launched during the ADFTWDA reunion at Baldy, Western Australia on 25 October 2008. The medal launch was well attended by senior dignitaries from the Federal, State and Local Governments, senior ADF officers of the Army and RAAF, DVA, Totally and Partially Disabled Veterans Association, RSL and the SES. The medal launch was a formal function with all ADF and State dog agency personnel in uniform. The medals were issued by senior officials who represented their respective Services and received by dogs via their handlers as each dog's name was called. There were twenty medals issued at the launch. The final act was to parade the dogs at the front of the official dais where the Salvation Army padre, Major Darryl Robinson, blessed the dogs, their handlers and trainers.

### **Statistics**

On 27 November 2008, the ADFTWDA Master Register for eligible dogs records the names of 222 dogs. Of these, 69 dogs are entitled to receive the War Dog Operational Medal with clasp (eligibility is 28 days in a Theatre of War or Area of Operations), and 164 dogs are entitled to receive the Canine Service Medal (eligibility is 5 years aggregated service). This figure will grow slowly over time because we have now listed almost every eligible dog in the ADF and State and Territory Governments in the Commonwealth of Australia. We will continue to receive applications for dog medals as individual dogs become eligible for either or both of the medals into the future.

### **Future Medal Issues**

The Association has a number of parades tentatively booked for dog medal issues. These include the Queensland Corrective Services in December 2008, RAAF Security and Fire School in December 2008, 2<sup>nd</sup> Combat Engineer Regiment in February 2009 and the Queensland Police Service in September 2009. There will be many more such parades in other centres of Australia during the course of 2009 when ADF units and the government departments and agencies confirm the dates and places where these are to be held. The ADFTWDA will be represented at each of these parades.

### **The Vietnam Dogs**

The eleven Vietnam War dogs medals have been made and delivered to us. A major project is now underway to have all the medals court-mounted and placed into a permanent display case. It is intended to place a photograph and a brief history of each dog beside its medals. A letter has been sent from us to the Commanding Officer of the School of Infantry (Singleton NSW) and the Curator to the museum requesting that the dog display case be mounted as a permanent exhibition. We await their response. Our suggestion is that the display case be formally presented to the

museum on Long Tan Day (Vietnam Veterans Day) 18 August 2009.

For those wondering why we have not favoured the Australian War Museum (AWM) in Canberra for the display case, the reason is that the AWM is not in a position to promise that the display case will be exhibited permanently. Indeed, it may end up in an archive and only put on display for particular periods where an exhibition of war dogs is considered appropriate by the AWM. However, the ADFTWDA is negotiating with the AWM about buying and dedicating a memorial paver to war dogs in the AWM precinct. Not related to the medals, but of significance to the Vietnam dogs, we have also written to the RAR Association requesting that we position a memorial plaque to the eleven Vietnam dogs along the RAR Memorial Walk at Enoggera. This would be a fitting location because all those dogs were RAR canines and never returned from the Vietnam War.

### **ADFTWDA Makes History**

All members of the ADFTWDA are to be congratulated for all the hard work and tenacity we displayed in ensuring that war dogs and service dogs be recognised by the issue of a medal. It may be an unofficial medal, but it does carry the credibility and honour which these dogs deserve. An internet check indicates that no other organisation in the world has recognised military working dogs and service dogs in the way that we have done. The ADFTWDA is very grateful to all those kind folk who made donations in support of this project, because without substantial financial backing, this project would still be just a good idea waiting to happen.

### ***From Timor***

A simple service was conducted at the headquarters of the International Stabilisation Force in East Timor for the internment of Military Working Dog Ziggy's ashes.

Ziggy had died suddenly in his kennel and is a great loss to the Military Working Dog team and in particular his Handler Corporal Dean Jennings.

The Military Working Dog Fly Away Team is stationed in East Timor as an operational asset to assist with patrolling, tracking and apprehension duties when required in support of the infantry.

A very strong bond develops between handler and dog.

In this case Corporal Dean Jennings and Ziggy had trained and worked together for 15 months.

*Corporal Dean Jennings places Ziggy's ashes into the grave at Camp Phoenix.*



# VETERANS' AFFAIRS NEWS

## Changes to Eligibility

DVA "INFORMATION HANDBOOK GENERAL 2008". With regard to eligibility for war widow(er)s there have been changes that will assist many. Under previous eligibility, the widow(er)s pension was only paid in the event of death from any accepted condition (s) deemed war or defence caused, or, the death was caused by any cause if the veteran was a TPI, EDA or a double amputee, or was an ex prisoner of war, or any of these Rates, are accepted after the veterans death.

The new eligibility effective from 01 July 08 over & above the aforementioned includes widow(er)s of; Intermediate & Temporary Totally Incapacitated veterans. The death does not have to be related to the accepted condition (s) as was the previous case.

The qualifying criteria for Intermediate Rate is awarded to veterans who are on 70% or more of the general Rate & deemed only fit to work less than 20 hours per week, or 50% of their normal hours of the veterans usual occupation.

This interpretation has caused many genuine cases to fail in the past, if not fully understood, if a person normally works 40 hours per week & is deemed only able to work 20 hours, they don't qualify, refer to the wording, LESS THAN 20 HOURS PER WEEK. In the event their normal duties are 37 hours per week they have to be deemed unfit to work less than 18.5 hours per week. Etc, etc. If this is not established, they do not qualify for that pension, and unless death is caused by an accepted condition, the widow(er)s do not qualify for their pension.

### **Rearrange the letters**

Dormitory	=	Dirty Room
Presbyterian	=	Best in Prayer
Astronomer	=	Moon Starer
Desperation	=	A rope ends it
The eyes	=	They see
George Bush	=	He bugs Gore
The morse code	=	Here come dots
Slot machines	=	Cash lost in me
Animosity	=	Is no amity
Election results	=	Lies—lets recount
Snooze alarms	=	Alas! No more z's
A decimal point	=	I'm a dot in place
The earthquakes	=	That queer shake
Eleven plus two	=	Twelve plus one
AND FOR THE GRAND FINALE:		
Mother in law	=	Woman Hitler

## Funding Cut

A group of volunteers dedicated to recognising Aboriginal war veterans is fighting for survival after its funding was halved by the Federal Government.

Honouring Indigenous War Graves, which has ensured the acknowledgment of 55 Aboriginal veterans since March 2005, was told in June that its funding would be cut from \$76,000 to \$38,000 for 2008-09 and could vanish altogether in mid-2009. President John Schnaars believes there could be 500 Aboriginal veterans in WA who, despite their service, lie in civilian or even unmarked graves.

HIWG works with the relatives of veterans, installing headstones that acknowledge the military career of late Diggers and running ceremonies involving the army, navy or air force. In the cases where a serviceman was buried overseas or whose body was never found, the group presents plaques to families.

For six years, Northam historian Jan James has researched indigenous military service in WA and identified 730 veterans. The real number may never be known because some evaded questions on their ethnicity to avoid exclusion or mistreatment.

## Travellers

When the Baldvis reunion was being planned, some of our members decided to go to WA the long way.

Shaun and Sally Dobson left their home in Hobart in May, and they were happily dawdling through Queensland when the rest of the group got away. All of us had set off by the end of July, although John Quane had to hurry up to catch up to the rest of us.

Darwin was the first place we were able to catch up with one another, to compare notes and complain about the cost of fuel and caravan park sites. Ann and Ben Hall discovered the Adelaide River Showground, and passed the message on to the rest of us. South of Darwin, it truly is a lovely place to stay, and they give a generous discount to veterans.

We all met up again in Kununurra, where we celebrated Long Tan Day. Of course the Kimberley is awesome, you have to see it to really know what it's like. Then there's the Pilbara - dust and mines. Bob and Julie were lucky enough to visit Pannewonica at the time of the rodeo and had a great time there.

The coast of Western Australia is spectacular - cliffs, beaches - the desert truly does meet the ocean there. Of course everyone knows about the dolphins at Monkey Mia.

We were lucky enough to be traveling during the wildflower season, and that was wonderful too, although in some places you really do need your fly nets.

Some of us were able to camp at the Baldvis retreat, which was very convenient, as we were able to enjoy the reunion activities without worrying about how to get home.

Most of us have ended our trip by now, although John Quane is still not back. He says he's not far away.

## **Family Break for Navy Personnel**      **Defence Honours & Awards Newsletter**

Australia's navy has been given a two-month Christmas break, in the hope that by making naval life more family friendly, it will attract the 2,000 recruits needed for the service to achieve its target strength of 15,000 sailors.

Commanders have ordered all ships not on overseas operations to return to port over the holiday, while docked vessels would have only a skeleton crew to maintain on-board security. "The stand down will not impact on operations and is to ensure that our people who are not required are able to take a meaningful period of time off and spend time with their families," Rear Admiral Davyd Thomas, the deputy navy chief, said.

The navy faces serious staff shortages, with a 27% annual recruitment shortfall exacerbated by more than one in 10 personnel leaving the service each year. In March, the 12,000-strong navy admitted having only enough qualified submariners to operate half of its six submarines, as the mining boom drew personnel to higher paying jobs in outback mines.

500 sailors will remain on active duty across Australia's northern coast and in the Persian Gulf over the break to maintain security and deter people-trafficking.

No break for our troops in Afghanistan though!

### **NOTICE - RWANDA VETERANS**

*Released on behalf of the RSL Australia*

In 1995, the Australian Defence Force Contingent Rwanda was awarded the ANZAC Peace Prize by RSL Australia for the provision of outstanding service in conjunction with the UN relief mission to Rwanda.

Today, the RSL is actively seeking all veterans of the Australian Contingent Rwanda so as to award Individual certificates of Recognition for the ANZAC Peace Prize awarded in 1995.

To achieve this, the RSL requests veterans of the Australian Contingent Rwanda who have not yet received their certificate, or if appropriate their next of kin, contact the RSL (details below) to provide a forwarding address for the ANZAC Peace Prize Certificate.

#### **RSL Contact Details:**

E-mail:- [ray.townsend@rslqld.org](mailto:ray.townsend@rslqld.org)

Telephone: 0423 439 811

Postal Address: Ray Townsend OAM  
Qld State Branch RSL Vice President  
PO Box 629 Spring Hill Qld 4004

The Directorate of Honours and Awards produces the Defence Honours & Awards Newsletter.

In the latest edition, you will find information on a wide range of subjects, including contemporary medal issues such as the acceptance and wearing of NATO medals and historical articles such as the Mothers' and Widows' Badge, established in 1940 and issued to the mother, widow or nearest female relative of a member of the Australian forces who died in service during the war.

The newsletter is sent to every serving member through their respective Service newspaper. It is also sent electronically to Federal Members of Parliament and many peak ex-serving organisations throughout Australia. The newsletter can also be found on our website at [www.defence.gov.au/medals](http://www.defence.gov.au/medals).

If you would like to receive hard copies of this newsletter and future editions, please contact the Directorate of Honours & Awards toll-free on 1800 111 321 from 0900 - 1700 aest.

### **IMPORTANT HEALTH ADVICE FOR WOMEN**

Do you have feelings of inadequacy?

Do you suffer from shyness?

Do you sometimes wish you were more assertive?

If you answered yes to any of these questions, ask your doctor or pharmacist about White Wine.

White Wine is the safe, natural way to feel better and more confident about yourself and your actions. White Wine can help ease you out of your shyness and let you tell the world that you're ready and willing to do just about anything.

You will notice the benefits of White Wine almost immediately and with a regimen of regular doses you can overcome any obstacles that prevent you from living the life you want to live.

Shyness and awkwardness will be a thing of the past and you will discover many talents you never knew you had. Stop hiding and start living, with White Wine. White Wine may not be right for everyone.

Women who are pregnant or nursing should not use White Wine. However, women who wouldn't mind nursing or becoming pregnant are encouraged to try it. Side effects may include dizziness, nausea, vomiting, incarceration, erotic lustfulness, loss of motor control, loss of clothing, loss of money, loss of virginity, delusions of grandeur, table dancing, headache, dehydration, dry mouth, and a desire to sing Karaoke and play all-night rounds of Strip Poker, Truth Or Dare, and Naked Twister.

**VISUAL-LINK art'n'design (Tony & Judy Hersey) PO Box 715 RENMARK SA 5341**

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## **Police and Services Canine Assn (PASCAQ) 2009 SEMINAR & BIATHLON**

This 6 day event will encompass the 150<sup>th</sup> Celebrations of the formation of Queensland and will coincide with the annual Police and Services Canine Association Qld (PASCAQ) biathlon and a planned K9 Law enforcement seminar, as well as some other major dog related agency activities around the same time.

Early indications are that all major agencies will support such an event in some capacity. The Qld Police Commissioner, Mr Bob Atkinson is currently chairing the committee for next year's event.

PASCAQ has also asked the Australian Service Dog Association (ASDA) and the Australian Defence Force Trackers And War Dogs Association (ADFTWDA) to come on board for this significant event.

Below is a proposed itinerary and is yet to be confirmed.

**Mon 31<sup>st</sup> Aug** - QPS Law Enforcement seminar

**Tue 1<sup>st</sup> Sep** - Qld Police Service Law Enforcement seminar

**Wed 2<sup>nd</sup> Sep** - QPS Law Enforcement seminar (half day)

PASCAQ meet and greet with a BBQ / tour of the RAAF breeding and training facilities

**Thu 3<sup>rd</sup> Sep** - PASCAQ Dog trials (limited numbers per agency due to time constraints)

**Fri 4<sup>th</sup> Sep** - PASCAQ Dog trials (limited numbers per agency due to time constraints)

**Sat 5<sup>th</sup> Sep** - PASCAQ Biathlon followed by farewell dinner

**Sun 6<sup>th</sup> Sep** - Free day

This event will be open to all state and federal government dog handlers and administrators from within the Australasian area as well as handlers internationally if they wish to attend.

It is anticipated that the events will be held within the western corridor of Brisbane and out towards the Ipswich area. Agencies within the area have indicated that they will be in a position to offer kennel space for competing interstate and overseas visitors as well as limited accommodation at certain training facilities at a minimal cost to competitors.

**Members of the ADFTWDA are encouraged to attend and also assist wherever possible.**

## **Changes by War Memorial**

The Vietnam Veterans Federation had a disagreement with the Australian War Memorial over the wording of the Agent Orange text panel in its recently opened Vietnam War gallery.

We are pleased to report that friendly negotiations in the spirit of wanting to 'get it right' have resulted in agreed re-wording.

Within the text panel's limit of 120 words, we agreed that the Agent Orange story should be told in historical sequence ending with the present situation of the acceptance of Agent Orange's cancer causing potential.

Here are the new words:

### **AGENT ORANGE**

Both the United States and Australia used defoliants in Vietnam to destroy the jungle which sheltered the Viet Cong. Agent Orange, containing the poisonous substance dioxin, was the most widely used of several herbicides.

After the war, numbers of Australian veterans became concerned about mounting evidence of possible health effects of their exposure to these chemicals. Vietnam Veterans' organisations agitated for government recognition of their case. The Evatt Royal Commission reported in 1985, absolving chemical agents from responsibility for veterans' health problems. Veterans strongly disagreed and continued to pursue the issue. Subsequent studies found links between exposure to Agent Orange in Vietnam and some cancers and other diseases. As a result, veterans have successfully pursued claims for compensation, and continue to do so.

The Vietnam Veterans Federation, on behalf of Vietnam veterans, thanks the Australian War Memorial for agreeing to implement these changes in the coming months.

### **Anecdotes sought**

Di Burke from the Anzac Day Commemorative Committee of Qld is working on a childrens doggy book with a view to publishing it in the new year. As a non-fiction 'history' book it could do with a bit of humour which would be best provided by the handlers who worked with the dogs. Many would have entertaining anecdotal stories that could be included in the book. If anyone would like to help, please contact Di Burke at PO Box 391 Aspley Qld 4034. Ph/fax 07 3263 7118 email: [anzacday@anzacday.org.au](mailto:anzacday@anzacday.org.au). Visit [www.anzacday.org.au](http://www.anzacday.org.au) for a look at previous productions.



## **RAAF Dog handlers earn their stripes**

The latest batch of RAAF military working dog handlers are turning the idea of the dog as man's best friend on its head, with one third of the class of 16 being female.

Recruits recently completed training at Amberley Air Force Base which has lasted the better part of a year, beginning with a 10-week basic recruit course followed by a basic police course and culminating in 13 weeks of military dog training.

Brisbane graduate Kandis Ivas-Duncan was relieved to have finished the punishing schedule, allowing her to pursue a "dream job" in military policing. "Both my parents were in the army and I've always had a passion for police work and being an avid dog lover it just made sense," Ms Ivas-Duncan said.

She said she felt proud to be graduating alongside so many other women and believed that it demonstrated a cultural change in the defence forces. "Mustering needs females as well - we're not as soft as people think we are and I think it's about time the public saw the military recognise that a woman can be just as good as a man, it all comes down to the training and bond you have with your dog."

Forming a strong relationship between dog and handler was a key skill for the handlers, who may be called up to deploy into operational areas such as the Solomon Islands, the Middle East and East Timor as well as guarding assets in Australia. "You bond very, very tightly with them.... because it just might be this fella here who saves your life," Ms Ivas-Duncan said.

"You have to be prepared to send the dog into an area you wouldn't send yourself or another human into. You have to be able to set the dog on someone who very well may blow themselves up and the dog. Ultimately you need to be able to make that sacrifice. It's a bit of a double edge sword but the rewards of the job outweigh the potential downsides."

At home, a pooch far less qualified for frontline combat greets Ms Ivas-Duncan when she returns from a hectic day of training - four-year-old Boxer named Phoenix. "I don't think he'd have the temperament for this kind of work but it's good to come to work and have my work dog and then go home and have my pet." she said.

Her first posting will be at Amberley Air Force Base guarding high value aircraft on runways and in hangers, patrolling along a flight line.



## **Twin Towns RSL Vietnam War Exhibition 13-15 August 2008**

The Vietnam war exhibition held at the Twin Towns RSL from Wednesday 13 August to Friday 15 August 2008 was an unqualified success. A large number of people and local school students visited the exhibition over the three days.

They came to see the 4 RAR/NZ (ANZAC) Bn display of an incredible array of memorabilia from the Vietnam War, the Mines Victims and Clearance (MiVAC) display of the ongoing work of mine clearing in South East Asia, the DVA display, the Royal Australian Navy display, the display from the School of Military Engineering demonstrating the vast nature and types of mines our troops overseas are currently encountering, and, of course, the ADFTWDA display.

This display included our own Tracker panels of photographs and explanatory detail, the RAAF panels of military working dog capabilities, and an Explosive Detection Dog (EDD) display from the 2<sup>nd</sup> Combat Engineer Regiment (2 CER). 2 CER provided two sappers with their EDDs, Mandy (Solomon Islands) and Ribbon (Afghanistan). The RAAF was represented by Sergeant Geoff Jarrett and Corporal Vanessa Wallis in uniform for all three days. On Thursday 14 August, a four puppy team headed up by Flight Sergeant Al Grossman attended and drew a lot of interest from a large number of visitors from the local schools.

We had our fund raising activity in full swing with sales of merchandise and the medals for dogs coin boxes as a part of our exhibition. We raised \$1617.60. Merchandise sales were \$1,015.10 and donations for the medals came to \$602.50. So, we did very well in displaying our Association plus gaining some much needed finance for our medal project.

ADFTWDA members worked the three days on a roster system and we thank Jack Tunney, Leo and Desiree Van De Kamp, Margaret Lambert, Denis Ferguson, Gordon Hay and Michael Winters. Our historian Anne McConnell did a fantastic job working right up to opening time on the ADFTWDA display boards. They looked a treat and attracted a lot of attention.

Well done ADFTWDA and thank you very much for the enthusiasm and support for the Association!

### ***Imprimatur Books***

### ***Military Book Specialist***

Mick & Jo Malone

PO Box 695 Mundaring Western Australia 6073

Ph: 08 9295 3911 Fax: 08 9295 3944

Email: [info@imprimaturbooks.com.au](mailto:info@imprimaturbooks.com.au)

[www.imprimaturbooks.com.au](http://www.imprimaturbooks.com.au)

**We use and recommend: East Coast Embroidery Maroochydore. Ph 07 5479 4977**

## Children's Support Group

My name is Nikki Reggett and I am the child of a Peacemaker and my father has PTSD. As a child I was confused and did not understand it. Talking with friends was impossible because no one can understand living with it, without having lived with it, especially other kids. I have started up a children of Veterans with PTSD support group for children from 10 years - 20 years who have a parent with PTSD due to defence service. The aim is to help and support each other through the rollercoaster ride of PTSD. WE are also there for kids that have their parent away on deployment and just want another kid to talk to.

I am 17 years old and just finished yr12. I have also started a psychology degree at USQ Springfield (headstart programme). I am a swimming teacher at The Swim factory in Ipswich and hold a blue card.

As part of this group, children can come along to meetings (currently in Ipswich but the plan is to have them on other location where contacts and friends would be able to be made, there will be people to talk to and for support, and we organise activities for bonding as a group. We are hoping to get some sponsorship from DVA and other organisations to fund these activities.

We are working on a website at the moment ( any help in this area would be very much appreciated) and eventually will be able to run a forum on line. We will have information that is written so they

can understand it. This will be restricted to members only and will be a safe site for us .

If you are interested, know someone who is interested or have a child who would benefit from this please contact me on:

Email: [lil\\_bugga@hotmail.com](mailto:lil_bugga@hotmail.com)

### Dog Philosophy

The reason a dog has so many friends is that he wags his tail instead of his tongue. *Anonymous*

Don't accept your dog's admiration as conclusive evidence that you are wonderful. *Ann Landers*

The average dog is a nicer person than the average person. *Andy Rooney*

## Veterans Assist

Veteran Assist is a private local company that is contracted to the Department of Veteran Affairs. We conduct HomeFront assessments on all Gold, White & War Widows that have a gold card regardless of health status, age & accommodation.

We make an appointment to see the veteran in their own home. We show the veteran the products on offer this calendar year up to the value of \$196. The veteran chooses the products and we order these for them. The items are used for the home and come under the 'falls prevention program'. Items chosen are to prevent falls such as retractable hose reels, sensor light, night light, non slip mats, cordless telephones just to name a few.

The assessment takes approx 30 minutes. It is at no cost to the veteran. The items are posted to the veteran and takes approx 4 weeks to arrive from Melbourne.

The uptake rate of HomeFront is only 4%. Our mission is to increase awareness of HomeFront and to service the veteran community Australia Wide! We have a 1800 telephone number which is free for all veterans calling from Australia. Please advise all your veteran friends about HomeFront and to call us to arrange for a local assessor to see them ASAP.

Phone 1800 257 788

### Life in a Nursing home

Five old mischievous Grandmas were sitting on a bench outside a nursing home. About then an old Grandpa walked by, and one of the old Grandma's yelled out saying, 'We bet we can tell exactly how old you are.'

The old man said, 'There ain't no way you can guess it, you old fools.'

One of the old Grandmas said, 'Sure we can! Just drop your trousers and underpants and we can tell your exact age.'

Embarrassed just a little, but anxious to prove they couldn't do it, he dropped his drawers. The Grandmas asked him to first turn around a couple of times and to jump up and down several times.

Then they all piped up and said, 'You're 91 years old!'

Standing with his pants down around his ankles, the old gent asked, 'How in the world did you guess?'

Slapping their knees and grinning from ear to ear, all the old ladies happily yelled in unison -- 'We were at your birthday party yesterday!'

### Thanks to Zupps Holden

A special thanks to Craig Luhrs of Zupps Holden 1310 Logan Road Mt Gravatt Brisbane for donating GMH Merchandise for raffle & lucky door prizes at our Trackers Functions. If you live in South East QLD and are in the market for a new car call and see Craig for a "Great Deal"! Ph 07 3877 0000.

## HEALTH & WELFARE

### VIETNAM VETERANS' FAMILY STUDY

*From Dr Rod Bain*

Over the past 27 years I have been involved with veterans, their partners and sometimes their children ... I can't count the number of times while assisting with claims, welfare or in general conversation that I have been told of veterans children with health issues ... I have even spoken with children who have various health problems ... so why is it that the response to this extremely important study is struggling to get numbers. I registered ... to my knowledge my children have no health problems, but still I registered. I sincerely hope that the reason isn't because you couldn't be bothered or simply 'I'm alright jack'. This study is vital ... if we show we don't care about these initiatives why should the DVA bother responding to other requests from veterans. Please take the time to visit the site and register ... it doesn't take long.

The numbers for the VIETNAM VETERANS FAMILY HEALTH STUDY (VVFHS) are not there as we had all been hoping,

Currently, the numbers by classification are:

1. Viet Vets at 2120 and we need 3000 minimum.
2. Viet Vets' children numbers OK.
3. National Servicemen at 1141 and we need 3000 minimum.

National Servicemens' children 593 but we need 1860 minimum.

If we fail to get the numbers then this vital definitive Study is at risk: in the vernacular "up the creek"

To participate as a Vietnam veteran, defence force or family member, you can by doing the following:

[register online](http://www.dva.gov.au/health/research/fsp/vv); <http://www.dva.gov.au/health/research/fsp/vv> call DVA's Health Study Line: 1800 502 302; or download a [registration form \(PDF 100KB\)](#) to complete and return Reply Paid to the Family Study Program.

Please read the information in the [Q&As](#) before registering your participation in the study.

Your consent to register to participate in the study will be required. Consent information is available to read on page 4 of the [registration form \(PDF 100KB\)](#).

DVA cannot contact family members directly or take personal details of any family members from someone else. Each family member, including adult children, partners, ex-partners and siblings must register themselves.

DVA's Health Study Line: 1800 502 302

**PS** Everyone (be you officially selected or not) who served in the AUSTRALIAN ARMY during the sixties and seventies and served in Vietnam OR remained in

Australia is invited to contribute to this study. National Service personnel are very much part of this program. Your contribution to the information collected will significantly enhance the study's depth and outcome which I'm happy to discuss with anyone who is anxious about this matter.

THIS STUDY HAS NO RELATIONSHIP TO ANY PENSIONABLE STATUS YOU MAY BE ENTITLED TO HOLD AND PERSONAL PHYSICAL INFORMATION WILL NOT BE MADE AVAILABLE TO ANY GOVERNMENT AGENCY. THE STUDIES, OF WHICH THERE ARE FIVE DIVISIONS, WILL BE CONDUCTED BY SEPARATE UNIVERSITY BASED GROUPS NOT DVA. THE LATTER IS FOR NAME AND ADDRESS REGISTRATION PURPOSES ONLY.

**Dr Roderick Bain MBBS FRCA FANZCA**

*RSL NSW State Vice President (Southern Country)*

*Tel 02-93808774 Mob. 0417604450*

### Prevent Puffer Problems

A new campaign targets the estimated 51,000 veterans, and the hundreds of thousands of other Australians who don't use their puffers properly. At the launch of the *Prevent Puffer Problems* campaign, Minister Griffin said as many as 80 per cent of veterans didn't use their inhaled medicines properly. In researching the condition, the DVA found that many busy health professionals weren't easily able to demonstrate the latest correct techniques to their patients, or assumed that their patients knew how to use the devices properly.

The *Prevent Puffer Problems* campaign encourages veterans to check their technique with a local pharmacist. A website has been created for health professionals where they can access specialised information and watch a demonstration of correct techniques in a couple of minutes on the web. The campaign was developed in partnership with the Department of Veterans' Affairs, the Australian Lung Foundation, the National Asthma Council of Australia, the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia, the Pharmacy Guild of Australia and the Australian General Practice Network. *Preventing Puffer Problems* is especially important for veterans with long-standing respiratory illnesses. The aim is to reduce hospital admissions and improve quality of life and enjoyment for tens of thousands of members of the veteran community.

If you are using a puffer check with your doctor or pharmacist that you are using it correctly ... you may be totally surprised at what you find out.

### RAP Sick List

*If you know of any member who is in poor health and would appreciate some support please contact the editor*



## **Lavarack Barracks**

### **40th Birthday**

The celebration on November 8th, 2008 was held in front of 3rd Brigade Headquarters with 750 guests mingling on the lawns.

While the birthday party was about celebrating the past, it was also about looking forward to the next 40 years of Townsville's 'army occupation'.

The commander of 3rd Brigade, Brigadier John Caligari, said the barracks had 'changed phenomenally' over the years. "The soldiers here realise we are the envy of the Army," Brig Caligari said.

It all started in November 1964 when Sir Robert Menzies announced plans to raise a new army task force of National Service conscripts, to be based in Townsville. The army had decided on the site 7km from the CBD, believing that army personnel and their families should have ready access to the same amenities as other townspeople.

On July 29, 1966 Sir Robert's successor Harold Holt named the unfinished barracks at the foot of Mount Stuart after Sir John Lavarack, former army Chief of General Staff and Queensland Governor. By February 1968 the 3rd Task Force, now known as the 3rd Brigade, had completed occupation of the barracks.

Since then about 50,000 soldiers and their families have called Townsville home.

Brig Caligari said the assimilation of the base into the city was part of what made Townsville such a popular posting for defence families.

"The barracks are this close to town," he said. "This has become the most popular combat force posting in Australia."

He said initiatives like Geckos family centre had made the city very popular with defence families.

"The thing I'm most proud of is the family centre," Brig Caligari said. "The rest of the Army is looking around to mimic what we are doing here."

In recent years the base has seen several improvements and another \$200 million upgrade for Lavarack Barracks Stage 4 is scheduled to be finished by 2010.

That revamp includes upgrades to 3rd Combat Engineer Regiment, 4th Field Regiment, the area gymnasium and medical services within the barracks.

Brig Caligari said the base now had 'five-star' accommodation, significantly different to that available in 1968 when the 'Nashos' moved in.

He said the next important event for the future of the barracks was the relocation of the 3rd Battalion Royal Australian Regiment.

Currently based at Holsworthy, near Sydney, the relocation of 3RAR will involve about 1500 personnel.

It is planned that 3RAR will have relocated to occupy their lines in Lavarack Barracks from the beginning of 2012. Part of the relocation includes a \$1 billion upgrade, which will be finished in four years time.

About 15 per cent of the Army is currently based in Townsville.

## **Puckapunyal Army Tank Museum**

Established to celebrate the achievements of the Australian Light Horse and the Royal Australian Armoured Corps, the museum features Australia's largest display of vintage tanks. It has over 70 armoured fighting vehicles, the Small-Arms and Anti-Tank Weapons display, the Australian Light Horse exhibit (1880s-1945), the Australian Armour During World War II and Vietnam display, and the Weapons Against Armour Lethality exhibit.

Apparently an engineer from Adelaide, by the name of Lance de Mole, submitted a proposal, to the British War Office, for a 'chain-rail vehicle which could be easily steered and carry heavy loads over rough ground and trenches'. This was in 1912 and the War Office rejected the idea, only to find it necessary to develop just such a vehicle in the new style of warfare which unfolded in World War I. However, by then, de Mole's design was forgotten and others were turned to for the design.

The museum has car and coach parking, a barbecue area, a gift shop with a large selection of military models and souvenirs, group rates and wheelchair access. It is located in Herakbion St and the route is clearly signposted all the way from the Hume Freeway near Seymour.

It is open from 10.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. daily (closed Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day),

tel: (03) 5793 7285.

*Thanks to Ray Payne*

### **True Justice**

A seven year old boy was at the centre of a courtroom drama yesterday when he challenged a court ruling over who should have custody of him.

The boy has a history of being beaten by his parents and the judge initially awarded custody to his aunt, in keeping with the child custody law and regulations requiring that family unity be maintained to the degree possible.

The boy surprised the court when he proclaimed that his aunt beat him more than his parents and he adamantly refused to live with her.

After considering the remainder of the immediate family and learning that domestic violence was apparently a way of life among them, the judge took the unprecedented step of allowing the boy to propose who should have custody of him.

After two recesses to check legal references and confer with child welfare officials, the judge granted temporary custody to the New South Wales State of Origin team, whom the boy firmly believes are not capable of beating anyone

## **MEMBERSHIP CRITERIA**

In August 2001 we formed the Australian Army Trackers and War Dogs Association. Because of ever increasing numbers of RAAF Dog Handlers wishing to join we have recently changed the name to Australian Defence Force Trackers and War Dogs Association. There are several categories of membership of our association.

### **Ordinary Members:**

- Serving or Ex-Serving members of the Army, Navy and Air Force of the Australian Defence Force who have served with Military War Dog Units.
- Serving or Ex-Serving members of the Army, Navy and Air Force of the Australian Defence Force who have provided direct support for Military War Dog Units and are deemed eligible by the Management Committee of the ADFTWDA.
- The Next of Kin of any deceased member who was entitled to ordinary membership.
- Any person who by their actions in support of the ADFTWDA are recognised by the Management Committee and are deemed eligible.

**Note: Because of the dual role of some Tracker Platoons during the war in South Vietnam, we extend to those who served as anti tank, fire assault or recon to join us as Ordinary Members.**

### **Associate Members:**

- Serving or Ex-Serving members of Federal or State Law enforcement agencies working with dogs.
- Serving or Ex-Serving members of Allied Armed Forces working with dogs.
- Wives, partners and immediate family members of those who qualify for Ordinary Membership.
- Serving or ex serving members of the armed forces who feel a desire to assist the association in fulfilling its aims.

### **Social Members or War Dogs Mates:**

- This membership is extended to any members of the general public who are interested in assisting the ADFTWDA to achieve its aims, subject to approval of the Management Committee.

**All membership of the Australian Defence Force Trackers and War Dogs Association is Free.**

However members are expected to assist in the form of a donation towards the ongoing administrative costs or projects as requested by the Management Committee.

**Membership of the ADFTWDA does not require overseas or 'active service'**

**We welcome new members who are eligible according to the criteria mentioned above. Please complete the application form on page 14 & mail to the secretary**

## **New Release**

"Charlie Don't Surf, But Aussies Do" by Stuart Scott, has just been written & published about the fun 'n' games at the Peter Badcoe Club at 1ALSG, Vung Tau.

It is available directly by post, and there is a brief description and some photos at [www.charliedontsurf.com.au](http://www.charliedontsurf.com.au)

The book is 128 pages, B5 size (24cm x 17cm), soft-cover, most photographs (from veterans and the Australian War Memorial) in colour. This is the first edition, fewer than 1000 printed.

The cost is \$30, plus postage, which is \$5 to anywhere in Australia: total \$35. (Or up to six copies could be sent in one parcel for \$10 postage, if someone has lots of mates). It is ready to go, and will be posted the first business day after payment clears.

Payment can be sent to:

Stuart Scott, 1590 David Low Way,  
Point Arkwright, QLD 4573

Or by direct bank deposit:

National Australia Bank

Account Name: SD and LM Scott ... BSB : 084941 ...  
Account Number: 540347400... (Please try to enter your name with the deposit, or else we won't know who it is from). And anyone buying this way should be sure to include their name and address of course.

Or if anyone prefers shopping via eBay, where PayPal becomes a payment option, it is listed there at the same price, a buy-it-now item. Just look in the Vietnam War book category, or search for "Badcoe Club".



*6 RAR Trackers at the Badcoe Club*

*From Left: Dennis Beard (Luhrmann), Gary Grant, John Featherstone, Stretch Holmes, Ben Hall, Jack Tunney.*

**AUSTRALIAN DEFENCE FORCE TRACKERS & WAR DOGS ASSOCIATION (Inc)**

**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM**

First Name ..... Nickname ..... Last Name ..... Partner's Name.....  
Street Address ..... Suburb .....  
Town / City ..... State ..... Post Code .....  
Ph No ..... Mob No ..... Email.....  
Service Record or Reason for Application .....  
.....  
.....

**Type of Membership:    Ordinary                    Associate                    War Dogs' Mate**  
(Please circle whichever applies)

Unit, Corps or Service ..... Dogs Name .....  
Signature ..... Date .....

Please forward to:  
The Secretary ADFTWDA 22 Pickering Place CABOOLTURE QLD 4510  
Ph 07 5498 3006 Mob: 0418 889 141 Email: csn61b@hotmail.net.au

***DONATIONS—MEDALS FOR DOGS***

We are in need of funding to assist in the creation and ongoing distribution of the Medals for dogs. The initial setting up and distribution of the first batch of medals will cost the Association in the vicinity of \$20,000. We have received a donation of \$10,000, as well as some smaller donations from other members. We particularly ask that those dog handlers who wish to take advantage of this initiative express their appreciation in a monetary form.

***There is no likelihood of any government assistance in the way of funding at this stage.***

The association Bank Account name is Australian Defence Force Trackers and War Dogs Association and it is with Bank of Queensland Brisbane A/C No: 10 567470 BSB 124 041

Don't forget to include your name with any bank transfer. **Please note new treasurer's address.**

If paying by post please send cheque or money order to:

The Treasurer Aussie Trackers Jack Tunney 27 Treasure Street MARYBOROUGH QLD 4650 PH: 07 4123 4223  
Mob: 0419 827 652 E-mail [jtu18715@bigpond.net.au](mailto:jtu18715@bigpond.net.au)

Name: ..... Address: .....  
Amount: .....

**There is no Merchandise mail order form because we do not have a Merchandise Manager. When we find one, and when they become available, we will be able to sell duplicate medals for dogs as well as our current merchandise.**

Disclaimer: We have used our best endeavours in preparing this newsletter, to ensure that the information contained within is true and accurate, but accept no responsibility and disclaim all liability in respect of any errors, omissions, inaccuracies or mis-statements contained in this newsletter.

**Photocopying courtesy of Jon Sullivan MP—Federal Member for Longman**